1. (Currently Amended) Method for characterizing the state of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising

    a. determining the pattern of expression levels of at least 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes, <u>wherein said marker genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477</u> ~~comprised in a group of marker genes consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 to 165~~, in a biological sample from said subject,

    b. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,

    c. characterizing the state of said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) Method for detection, diagnosis, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosis of a neoplastic disease in a subject, comprising

    a. determining the pattern of expression levels of at least 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 marker genes<u> wherein said marker genes comprise SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID NO: 477,</u> ~~comprised in a group of marker genes consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1 to 17, 19 to 33, 35 to 50, 52 to 64, 66 to 85, 88 to 91, and 93 to 165~~ in biological samples from said subject,

    b. comparing the pattern of expression levels determined in (i) with one or several reference pattern(s) of expression levels,

    c. detecting, diagnosing, screening, monitoring, and/or prognosing said neoplastic disease in said subject from the outcome of the comparison in step (ii).

4. Canceled

5.   (Currently Amended) Method of ~~claim 1 or 3~~ ̲c̲l̲a̲i̲m̲ ̲1̲ ̲o̲r̲ ̲3̲ ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said method comprises multiple determinations of a pattern of expression levels, at different points in time, thereby allowing to monitor the development of said neoplastic disease in said subject.

6. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 1 or ̲3̲ ~~2~~, wherein said method comprises an estimation of the likelihood of success of a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease in said subject.

7. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 1 or ̲3̲ ~~2~~, wherein said method comprises an assessment of whether or not the subject is expected to respond to a given mode of treatment for said neoplastic disease.

8. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein a predictive algorithm is used.

9. (Original) Method of claim 8, wherein the predictive algorithm is a Support Vector Machine.

10. - 15. Canceled

16.   (Currently Amended) Method of ~~any of claims 1 to 15 wherein said~~ ̲c̲l̲a̲i̲m̲s̲ ̲1̲ ̲o̲r̲ ̲3̲ ̲f̲u̲r̲t̲h̲e̲r̲ ̲c̲o̲m̲p̲r̲i̲s̲i̲n̲g̲ ̲a̲d̲d̲i̲t̲i̲o̲n̲a̲l̲ marker genes ~~are~~ ~~comprised in a group of marker genes~~ listed in Table 2.

17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) Method of ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ ̲o̲r̲ ̲3̲ ~~17~~, wherein the neoplastic disease is breast cancer.

19. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising at least 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 30, or 47 primer pairs and probes suitable for marker genes comprised in a group of marker genes ~~consisting of~~

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~~SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO:165, or~~

<u>comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 159, and SEQ ID</u>
<u>NO: 477 and further comprising additional markers genes wherein</u> the
<u>additional</u> marker genes <u>are</u> listed in Table 2.

20. – 24. Canceled